

# Historic Crimes and Mysteries

By Walt Mason

## LAUGHING LACENAIRE.

On December 14, 1834, a gentleman of distinguished appearance walked briskly along a quiet street near the Chopinette barrier, in Paris.

This pedestrian, who looked distinguished even under the handicap of threadbare garments, was about thirty-five years old. He was rather small of stature, but carried himself proudly. His face was refined and intellectual—the face of a poet and a dreamer. Indeed, at that hour all Paris was whistling and singing one of his songs, "The Five and the Drum." He had the hands and hair of an artist, and the joyous carefree laugh of a boy. It was a good thing to hear Lacenaire laugh.

Behind Lacenaire there walked a man of vulgar appearance. His name was Avril. He was quite young, not more than twenty-two, and he had been so unfortunate as a criminal that Lacenaire was sorry for him, and was determined to give him a chance to do better work.

Presently they stopped before a dwelling of prosperous appearance. "This is the place," said Lacenaire. "Do you remember my instructions quite clearly? Yes? Then allow us!"

this about, but the details are not essential to this story.

Everything being in readiness, Avril was so foolish as to be arrested, while trying to rescue a lady friend from the police. So, at the eleventh hour, Lacenaire had to go forth and seek another assistant. Reliable help of that kind is hard to find when most needed, but after much trouble the poet accepted as his partner a gentleman named Francois, to whom homicide was a fad. It was said of him, in his own haunts, that he would kill a man for a sou, which was cheap enough, to be sure.

Francois, however, should have known better than to eat oranges before committing a crime. Or, if he couldn't get along without oranges, he should have realized that it was bad to drop the peel on the floor of a business man's office.

At the appointed hour the bank messenger arrived at the office with his little bag fairly bulging with money, and securities. Lacenaire, the smiling, the fascinating, asked him to seat himself at the table and examine certain papers. The messenger did so, and while the poet engaged him in conversation, and held his whole attention, Francois came up behind, dagger in hand, to stab him to the heart. Francois, who had studied murder under the old masters, knew how to reach the heart from any angle or position. This looked like an easy and sure job! But, maledictions on the orange peel! His foot slipped just as he delivered the blow. The messenger was stabbed, but not mortally, or even seriously. With a yell of terror he leaped for the door and reached it first, and ran down the stairs yelling murder. Francois also sped away, and Lacenaire followed close at the messenger's heels, also yelling murder, thus diverting suspicion until he reached the street and was lost in the crowd.

He felt that Paris was no place for him just then, so he departed for the provinces, where for a long time he lived openly. He wrote much poetry at this time, and it was good poetry, which sold readily; but he was too wise to depend upon the muse for a living, so, when not embalming things in song he devoted his genius to forgery, and with great success. When he returned to Paris he was attired in purple and fine linen, and was a credit to the boulevards.

Meanwhile Francois had been arrested on some trifling charge, and

## PLEASES BECAUSE OF INDIVIDUALITY

Type of Home, of Bungalow Construction, That Has Distinctive Features.

### CORNER ENTRANCE IS UNIQUE

That and the Use of Novel Hardware Fittings for Doors and Windows Give a Very Pleasing Effect—Interior Arrangement Embodies New Ideas.

By WILLIAM A. RADFORD.

Mr. William A. Radford will answer questions and give advice FREE OF COST on all subjects pertaining to the subject of building, for the readers of this paper. On account of his wide experience as Editor, Author and Manufacturer, he is, without doubt, the highest authority on all these subjects. Address all inquiries to William A. Radford, No. 1827 Prairie avenue, Chicago, Ill., and only enclose two-cent stamp for reply.

Nearly all people are gifted with a desire to possess a home which is different from that of their neighbors. As a result there are a great variety of ways in which a house may be finished: Wood, brick, stone of all kinds, concrete blocks, stucco and all combinations of these have aided in the conquest for variety; the architects and contractors have worked overtime to produce new and distinctive details of house design. The work of all ages and all lands is gathered together to contribute to the satisfaction of the modern home builder.

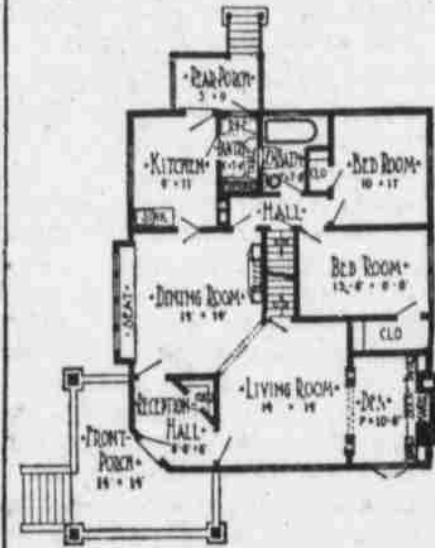
At various times a type of construction is found which seems to be particularly suited to some certain locality, but it is invariably only a short time when this type is found to be applicable to other localities, after a few changes have been made to adapt it to a different climate. An illustration may be taken from the wide use of the bungalow type of home, which, although especially adapted to the needs of the California home builder, is nevertheless furnishing a very satisfactory type of construction for those building in the middle and eastern states. This type of home is no longer a novelty in its newer locations, and it is now necessary for the home builder who appreciates the convenience of the bungalow but who still wishes to obtain a distinctive house, to call upon the designer to incorporate some novel features into his plans which will mark the finished structure as decidedly different from the bungalows usually constructed.

One means of obtaining individuality in a house, which is usually over-

adds a further note of distinction to the bungalow. The chimney is of rough brick to correspond to the porch columns. The exterior is quite different from the usual examples of this type and lends itself well to a finish which will force it upon the attention of the casual observer. Trim should be white around all windows and doors. The porch railings and pillars should be finished in the same way. With the rough siding finished in some dark color and the shingled portion a few shades lighter, the finished appearance of the bungalow is all that anyone looking for individuality in a home could ask for.

What is more, the interior arrangement of this house is in thorough keeping with the general idea, embodying many unique features not commonly found in the bungalow type. The front door opens into a little reception hall having doors into the living room and the dining room. The triangular closet in this hall, with shelves and books for wraps, is a point of interest.

The door to the right as you enter the reception hall leads into the generous living room. Four windows in the one wall of this room flood it with light and make it always bright and cheery. At the far end of the



Arrangement of Corner Entrance, Five-Room Bungalow, Size 32 Feet 6 Inches by 35 Feet 6 Inches.

room, from the reception hall, is a colonnade with a cased opening into a little den which is one of the most inviting features of the entire house. The rear wall of the den is occupied with a big brick fireplace having a bookcase built against the wall on each side. Light enters through a double casement window in the other wall.

The dining room is connected to the living room through a 45-degree cased opening, which really makes these two rooms into one large room extending around the corner at the staircase. In the dining room is a bay with four windows and a seat in front of them. Across from this seat is a buffet built against the wall. The dining room and living room are of the same size and together are suffi-



cient to provide room for the entertainment of quite a few guests. The kitchen is back of the dining room and is equipped with a model pantry. While working at the table in this pantry the shelves are handily located to the right and the refrigerator to the left. No time and energy are wasted in moving about a large room in the preparation of a meal. The refrigerator is iced from the rear porch, thus preventing the tracking of mud into the kitchen by the ice-man. This pantry will prove to be as interesting a feature to the women as the little den is to the men who visit the owners of this bungalow home.

The corner of the house opposite to the porch is occupied with two bedrooms and a bathroom, all of which open into a hall leading to the dining room. Each bedroom has a generous closet with shelves, and is well lighted. The bathroom is well arranged and is provided with a built-in medicine closet.

The stairs into the basement are reached through the hall in the rear of the house. The basement is large and may be used in many ways to add to the utility of the house. It is lighted with grade windows made possible by carrying the foundation walls up above the ground level. Storage space is provided in the attic, which may be reached from the living room.

Taken in its entirety, this bungalow has an unusual number of very interesting features, both in interior and exterior design, and it is particularly well suited to the man who enjoys individuality in a home.

### Some Noise.

Church—An American-made plane now on exhibition in London is the largest in the world. It has 322 keys, and six pianists can play on it at once.

Gotham—When the Londoners hear that awful noise they must think of Zeppelin's coming.

## In Woman's Realm

Taffeta Suit, Easily One of the Best of the Season's Productions, Is the One Displayed—Outfit That Will Deserve the Attention of the College Girl.

By *dancing* to be perfectly plain, but otherwise not going contrary to prevailing fashions, the taffeta suit shown may make claim to noteworthy originality. It is a between-seasons affair, which will prove a safe investment for the young women who must make an early selection. It is a happy choice for the miss who is still in school, and whose youthfulness needs no furbelows.

So severe a model is a rarity in silk and this one is too plain to need description. The fullness of the skirt is shirred into a short yoke at the sides

shown in the picture. Most of these are of velvet over rather pliable shapes, but a hat of satin, hatter's plush or other fabric lends variety to the showings.

Wide-brimmed sailors, big tams and hats with irregular brims appear along with smaller shapes. The illustration shows a turban of satin, trimmed with an acorn and leaves made of velvet applied against the front brim and crown. At the center of the group, a mushroom, covered with black velvet is brightened by a wide border of colored velvet and a wreath of small



SILK SUIT AT ITS BEST.

and back, and it fastens at the left front. The body of the coat could not be cut on simpler lines, and it hangs straight from the shoulder. It is joined to the peplum under a soft crushed belt of the taffeta, fastening at the front with a prim bow and buckle. Round velvet-covered buttons and small silk cord loops take care of the front fastening.

The sleeves are long and flare a little at the band, where they are slashed into rounded points. A soft collar of pique is worn inside the rolling collar of silk.

As to the silk suit for street or other wear, it is one of the most satisfactory possessions. Women who know how to do decorative needlework can buy plain suits and embellish them with embroidered details that place them in the class of exclusive designs. By the addition of other trimmings and fashion features the plain suit may be converted into an expression of individual taste, as the season grows older.

Before the cool breezes of September have begun to sigh with the passing of summer, the college girl must

metallize blossoms set in velvet leaves. There is a flat band of narrow grosgrain ribbon about the top crown finished with a little bow at the back.

An all-black velvet hat, at the right, is one of the smartest of tailored patterns. It has a collar of grosgrain ribbon; and a fan of velvet, finished with little ruffles of ribbon, is perched on the upturned brim.

### Substantial Lettering.

Has it occurred to you what attractive letters substantial tapes or braids of almost any kind will make on household linens? This is really as easy a way of marking as any. It is necessary, of course, first to mark off your letters; a script is usually best for braidwork, and the marking can be done with a stout card upon which the letter has been drawn and the outline perforated with pins. This card will last for many stampings with a soft lead pencil through the perforations.

Cotton souteache, very fine rickrack, coronation, cotton rat-tail or any braid may be worked into these letters. The heavier braids, of course, should be re-



OUTFIT FOR THE COLLEGE GIRL.

bethink her of her outfitting for school. Her street suit and blouses for daily wear and a tailored hat for fall must be selected in advance of the real opening of the new season. But the creators of style have already launched the things that she will need, and in millinery especially there is an abundance of felt and velvet hats made for her exclusive benefit.

Plain, bright-colored felts and velours, trimmed with bands of ribbon or simple ornaments, or with flat decorations of embroidery are sure of their welcome already. They are nearly all brimmed hats with comfortable crowns, and many of them are made in two-toned designs, that is, the under brim is in a contrasting color. Besides the pressed hats there are a sort of "made" or tailored hats like those

### Newest Smock.

Made of heavy blue cotton crepe with a shallow collar and snug protective wristbands is the smock of the moment. It reaches the skirt hem and as far as looks is concerned there is no need of a skirt beneath. It may serve as an overall and keep a dainty dress from garden stains and kitchen grime for the bottom of the hem is sewn together, leaving slits for the feet to go through, producing thus a sort of bloomer.



"He Threw His Arm Around Chardon's Neck and Garroted Him."

The poet rang the doorbell, and the door was opened by a young man.

"Ah, my dear Chardon," cried Lacenaire, "we have come to see your mother on a trifle of business—the mere signing of a paper."

"We are greatly honored, M. Lacenaire," replied Chardon. "Mother, as you know, is an invalid, and is in her bed, but she can do what you ask."

They stood face to face, Chardon and Lacenaire, and the latter gossiped gaily of one thing and another, while Avril stole quietly behind Chardon, and, having stationed himself properly, at a wink from the poet he threw his arm around Chardon's neck and garroted him. Lacenaire drew a dagger then, and stabbed the victim several times, to make the job complete, then he went to the room of the invalid mother and slew her with the weapon that killed the son.

"There should be 10,000 francs here somewhere, according to my information," said Lacenaire. "Lock the door, my friend, and we'll search till we find the money."

Avril locked the door, and they searched and searched, but all they found was 500 francs. Lacenaire, whose sense of humor was abnormally developed, laughed until the tears rolled down his cheeks. It was this insensibility, displayed on many tragic and harrowing occasions, that made him one of the most famous criminals of modern times.

"Is the joke on us or on the Chardons?" he asked, as he wiped the joyous tears from his face. He wanted to get away. Those dead people were getting on his nerves. So they left the house, and went to an inn, where, over sundry bottles of cheap wine, Lacenaire planned a larger and better crime.

He rented an office and painted an assumed name on the door, thus creating the impression that he was a business man. Then, by laying his plans carefully, he arranged that a bank messenger should call upon him in his office on a certain day, the chosen day being one on which collections were sure to be large. It took a great deal of skillful maneuvering to bring

Avril still was in jail. The crimes in which they had been concerned were complete mysteries to the police, and it seemed that they would always remain so, when Francois dropped a few words which made the police suspicious, and they drew from him the story of the attack upon the bank messenger. Avril's conscience became active about the same time, and he told of the Chardon murders. So it came to pass that the poet was arrested, and when he learned that the discovery was due to his accomplices, he made full confession, his only object, he said, being to take the betrayers to the guillotine with him.

The trial was a famous one. The most celebrated people of France crowded to the courtroom to see the laughing Lacenaire, who was dressed like a prince. He laughed and joked throughout the proceedings, and drove Avril and Francois to a frenzy time and time again by his ridicule. Upon several occasions the guards had to hold them, they were so anxious to get at his throat.

Francois was sentenced to life imprisonment, and Lacenaire and Avril to death. So one day in 1835 these two made their last appearance in public. Avril died first, and met his fate with brutish calmness. Lacenaire tried to appear jaunty and joyous, but it was with an effort. He was excited and nervous. Being a man of imagination, a poet and artist, death meant more to him than to an ordinary criminal. He fought for self-control with a mental courage that is more heroic than any physical courage. Badly scared, he tried to seem undaunted. But it was his fate to undergo an extraordinary ordeal that would break down any courage. The guillotine wouldn't work. Time and again the ax descended to within an inch or two of his neck and then stuck, and the executioner fumbled with it, raised it, and let it fall again. The tortured man twisted himself around so that he could look upward, and uttered an awful, agonized shriek that was never forgotten by those who heard it.

But the shriek was cut in two. The ax worked at last.